

Summer employment rate for teenagers hit a record low in 2009

Deer Park, NY – On Friday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) joined the United Way of Long Island and YouthBuild to call for passage of legislation to support youth summer jobs.

“Summer employment helps keep teenagers off the streets while building character and helping our youth develop skills that are critical for their futures. Right here on Long Island, the YouthBuild program is training the next generation for promising careers in green jobs,” said Rep. Israel. “The House passed legislation to support as many as 300,000 summer jobs for youth. Today I’m calling for the Senate to do the same and for the President to quickly sign the legislation so that we can create new opportunities for youth this summer.”

“United Way is supportive of education and employment initiatives particularly for young adults,” said Theresa Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island. “United Way’s YouthBuild Long Island program is a prime example of an age-focused career-development initiative that prepares young people for a productive career path and future, while addressing the need to develop a local green collar workforce to meet the demands of a high-growth industry.”

In March, the House passed the Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act of 2010, which included \$600 million in funding for summer jobs for youth. This funding would support Workforce Investment Boards to expand successful summer jobs programs, such as YouthBuild and other youth employment initiatives.

In 2009, summer youth employment dropped below 33 percent, a record low. The legislation passed by the House would support as many as 300,000 summer youth jobs nationally.

For fiscal year 2009, Rep. Israel secured \$1 million in federal funding for YouthBuild Long Island and the YouthBuild Green Construction Learning Lab.

YouthBuild Long Island is a free youth and community-development program, and alternative school, that simultaneously addresses core issues facing low-income communities. The program serves low-income young adults ages 18–24 and includes career counseling and training for jobs in the growing green building sector.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.